Trade between Sri Lanka and India

2011. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether to widen the scope of trade and commerce between India and Sri Lanka, both the countries have signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement;

(b) if so, the details of the new areas identified;

(c) to what extent this new pact has incorporated the new segments of the industry including services and investments besides the other sectors of economic cooperation; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) There is a proposal to enter into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Sri Lanka.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the meeting between the Prime Minister of India and Sri Lanka during 2002, a Joint Study Group (JSG) was set up. This Group, in its report submitted to the two Prime Ministers on 20th October, 2003 in New Delhi, has recommended that CEPA could address issues such as reducing items under the Negative List, adopting trade facilitation measures like harmonized customs procedures, conclusion of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs). Additionally, the CEPA would include trade in services, investment and economic cooperation.

(d) The details of the CEPA are yet to be negotiated by both countries.

Dilution of intellectual property of drug companies

2012. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest agreement reached at Geneva on contentious provisions to dilute intellectual property of drug companies to meet public

health emergencies of poor countries has been opposed by the pharmaceutical companies in the country;

(b) if so, the features of the agreement reached at Geneva;

(c) whether US has clarified that it is not trying to exclude countries like India, Brazil and China from producing and supplying pharmaceutical products, patented elsewhere, to the Nations with low manufacturing capacities during emergencies; and

(d) if so, to what extent the latest agreement would be helpful to India and other poor countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) in his reaction to the WTO Decision on Paragraph 6 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health of 30th August 2003 has raised the issue of restrictions and complex procedcures in the decision and the difficulties it would create in manufacture and export of the pharmaceutical products.

(b) The Decision grants a waiver from the obligations under Article 31(f) of the Trips Agreement with respect to grant of a compulsory license to an exporting country for the purpose of production of pharmaceutical products and their export to an eligible importing country in accordance with the terms set out in the Decision. The Decision includes procedure for determination of insufficient or no manufacturing capacity by an importing country, notifications to the Council for TRIPS, terms and conditions for compulsory license issued by the exporting country, requirement of special packaging and/or special colouring/shaping of the products to distinguish them, means to prevent diversion to third markets etc.

(c) No, Sir. The decision does not exclude any country from producing and supplying pharmaceutical products under compulsory license.

(d) The Decision would provide an opportunity to generic companies to manufacture and export pharmaceutical products under compulsory

license to countries with limited or no manufacturing capacity in the pharmaceutical sector. The Decision would enable the countries with limited or no manufacturing capacity in pharmaceutical sector to import pharmaceutical products at affordable prices.

Joint proposal on agriculture

2013. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India together with 13 countries including, China, Brazil, Mexico and Thailand has submitted a framework joint proposal on agriculture to the World Trade Organisation;

(b) to what extent, this proposal has been accepted;

(c) how many of the countries have so far supported this move;

(d) whether this would be the first meeting of the WTO General Council after failed Cancun meet;

(e) if so, whether India has rejected the pro-developed countries' EU-US joint farm proposals; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA, MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Towards developing a framework for modalities for negotiations in agriculture, India along with 19 countries including Argentina, Brazil, China, Mexico, South Africa, and Thailand have submitted a joint paper in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on 20 August, 2003, as partially revised on 29 August 2003. The Cancun Ministerial Conference held on 10-14 September, 2003 could not reach an agreement on the proposals on any framework. The negotiations are scheduled to be concluded by 1 January, 2005.

(d) The General Council of the WTO met in regular session on 21 October 2003. The General council at the senior officials level also met on 15-16 December, 2003, to consider the follow-up on the Doha Work Programme in light of the Ministerial Statement adopted at Cancun.